

Message Text

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ACTION IO-14

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E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: EGEN, UN, ECON
SUBJECT: OVERVIEW MECHANISM: INFORMAL CONSULTATIONS

1. SECOND ROUND "INFORMAL CONSULTATIONS" WITH REPRESENTATIVES OF ALL GROUPS MET MORNING MAY 3 WITH HALL OF JAMAICA IN CHAIR. MEETING FOCUSED ON RELATIONSHIP OF PROCEDURES TO BE FOLLOWED IN PURSUIT OF SUBSTANTIVE RESULTS OF PHASE ONE (CURRENT MEETINGS) FOR CONSIDERATION BY HIGH-LEVEL REPRESENTATIONS FROM CAPITALS IN PHASE TWO STARTING WEDNESDAY, MAY 10. HALL OPENED WITH OBSERVATION THAT INFORMAL CONSULTATIONS ON MAY 2 CONCLUDED THAT RAPPATEUR AND "FRIENDS OF RAPPATEUR" WOULD PREPARE SHORT "SYNTHESIS" OF AGENDA ITEM ONE PRESENTATIONS AT PLENARY ON MAY 3 AND 4 FOR "ADOPTION" BY PLENARY. HE ADDED THAT AGENDA ITEM TWO WOULD BE TAKEN UP IN PLENARY ON FRIDAY AFTER WHICH A "WORKING GROUP" WOULD PREPARE REPORT BASED ON PAPERS SUBMITTED UNDER IT AND COMMENTARIES BY DELEGATIONS IN PLENARY. WG REPORT WOULD THEN BE DISCUSSED BY HIGH-LEVEL MEETING NEXT WEEK IN EFFORT TO "NARROW THE GAPS."

2. ENSUING EXCHANGES CLEARLY REVEALED THAT G-77 NOT ONLY WANTED HEAVY FOCUS ON AGENDA ITEM TWO (AS DEPARTMENT AND USUN HAD PREVIOUSLY DEVINED) BUT THAT BASIS OF CONSIDERA-

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TION SHOULD BE G-77 AND SWEDISH PAPERS DESPITE FACT THAT AGENDA DID NOT CALL FOR SUBMISSION OF COUNTRY OR COUNTRY GROUP PAPERS ON THIS TOPIC. US AND CANADA DELS POINTED OUT THAT WE COULD NOT CONDUCT DISCUSSION ON BASIS OF G-77 PAPER. THEY ALSO LED OPPOSITION TO SHIFTING EMPHASIS TO AGENDA ITEM TWO BECAUSE IT SEEMED TO BACK OFF EARLIER AGREEMENT TO BALANCED CONSIDERATION OF BOTH ITEM ONE AND

ITEM TWO. THEY EXPRESSED STRONG CONCERN THAT CREATION OF WORKING GROUP WOULD RESULT IN CIEC-LIKE EMPHASIS ON CRAFTING LANGUAGE ACCEPTABLE TO ALL PARTIES TO DETRIMENT OF SERIOUS DISCUSSION OF SUBSTANTIVE ISSUES. AKHUND OF PAKISTAN AND PEREZ GUERRERA OF VENEZUELA SOUGHT TO BRIDGE DIFFERENCES BY AGREEING ON NEED FOR SERIOUS DISCUSSION OF SUBSTANTIVE ISSUES BUT ALSO NEED FOR CREATION OF SOME PROCEDURES THAT WILL RESULT IN SYNTHESIS OF VIEWS AND AREAS OF CONTINUED DISAGREEMENT IN FORM OF DOCUMENT FOR CONSIDERATION OF HIGH-LEVEL OFFICIALS. P.G. OBSERVED "WE NEED AN EXCHANGE OF VIEWS IN ORDER TO REACH A CONVERGENCE OF VIEWS."

3. FINLAND, NORWAY, DENMARK, NEW ZEALAND ALL EXPRESSED SOME DISQUIETUDE ABOUT DIRECTION DISCUSSION SEEMED TO BE GOING AND SOUGHT ASSURANCE THAT REGARDLESS OF WHAT PROCEDURES MAY BE ESTABLISHED THAT SUBSTANTIVE AGENDA ITEMS WOULD ALL BE DISCUSSED WITH A VIEW TO PREPARING FOR HIGH-LEVEL MEETING NEXT WEEK. YUGOSLAVS AND EGYPTIANS PLACED EMPHASIS ON PROCEDURES FOR PREPARATION OF "TOOLS" FOR DELIBERATIONS OF HIGH-LEVEL OFFICIALS.

4. COMMENT: IT APPEARS THAT WE WILL BE UNABLE TO AVOID CREATION OF WORKING GROUP FOR AGENDA ITEM TWO TO PREPARE DOCUMENT FOR CONSIDERATION BY HIGH-LEVEL OFFICIALS. WE WILL THEREFORE BEND EVERY EFFORT TO ASSURE THAT IT IS A LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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FACTUAL REPORT OF DELIBERATIONS RATHER THAN AN AGREED DECISIONS PAPER, AND INSIST THAT IT BE ONLY A FAITHFUL RECORD OF DISCUSSION, POINTING OUT BOTH CONCURRENCES AND DIFFERENCES IN VIEWS AND POSITIONS. WHILE DISCUSSIONS HAVE BEEN SOMEWHAT "HEAVY" THERE WAS NO ACRIMONY AND A CLEAR DESIRE ON PART ALL SPEAKERS TO ASSURE THAT ATMOSPHERE NOT TURN SOUR. JAPANESE DEL (YAGI) HAS EXPRESSED TO US, NOT UNCHARACTERISTICALLY, NERVOUS DESIRE TO ASSURE COORDINATED POSITION AMONG INDUSTRIALIZED COUNTRIES. YOUNG

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